

# **Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate distribution, August 16, 2004

Re: Application of HR 218, concealed carry authority for retired law enforcement officers in Kansas.

Thursday, August 12, 2004, a working group with representatives from Attorney General Phill Kline's staff, the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation met to discuss HR 218, the new federal law authorizing law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons across state lines. The new law also applies to retired officers who meet certain criteria, such as having at least 15 years of service, and who have qualified with their firearm within the previous 12 months.

The focus of the working group is the role of the state of Kansas in qualifying retired officers. Individual agencies have the discretion on whether to provide the required identification cards and may also conduct the necessary firearm certification for their retired officers. In addition, the law contemplates that the state could also conduct or verify the firearm qualification as "meeting the standards established by the state".

However, Kansas, like many states, has deferred to local agencies to establish their own minimum firearms qualifications for active law enforcement officers. Since there is no current state standard to apply, the working group decided to approach the 2005 Kansas Legislature with suggested legislation necessary to implement HB 218, ensure public safety and minimize the liability issues. Representatives of the working group will be contacting the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, Kansas Peace Officers' Association and Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police for additional input. The working group will be meeting again in September to start on the proposed legislation.

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